Oswald Literature Distribution- 12/22/68

Mrs. John G. Tarsikes
WDSU footage
WWL footage
Accomplice
Secret Service Control Nos. 703, 109 22 H 182

Humans are error prone, especially in times of crisis, but it does seem strange that the Secret Service confused CBS and NBC footage. If Mrs. Tarsikes' observations were accurate, this eliminated any chance of identifying the man she thinks she saw in the New Orleans footage, with Oswald, and on TV, at the place and time of the assassination.

WWL-TV in New Orleans is a CBS affiliate; WDSU-TV is NBC.

The report of Agent L.M.Benavides says Mrs. Tarsikes was looking at WOAI-TV, Channel 4, NBC. The film shown her by the Secret Service came from WWL, which is NBC and therefore is not the film she saw on WOAI. This cannot be because the Secret Service did not have the WDSU footage. The first page of the Rice report, 703, seems to say he sent the footage from both stations to Benavides. Rather I should have said the film she said she saw came from WWL, which would indicate she is wrong or she was not looking at WOAI. In any event, this is something the agents could and should have corrected, left clear rather than confused.

She seems accredited as a competent, dependable observer.

What she describes is a scene shot froms a different angle than the now-existing WWL footage. If she is correct, then there has been editing of this footage since the assassination. If the film was given to the agents for them to have copied, this is possible. It is not likely that PanAmerican, which seems to have done the processing for the agents in New Orleans, would have done any editing on its own. The kind of scene she describes is like a section of the WDSU-Rush footage, taken along the Camp St. side of the building. It could also have been taken from the Canal St. side. Here I refer to an earlier report in which I recount what Gomez, formerly service manager at Foreign Imports, the Fiat dealer on Baronne St., told me, that Oswald seemed to have had the use of an old car at the parking lot on the other side of Common St., away from Canal, and on the same side as the then Trade Mart of Camp St. Activity at the car or parking lot could have attracted the eye of the photographer.

Mrs. Tarsikes description of this man, aside from his ethnic origin, as she presumed it, is not inconsistent with the other descriptions of the man known to have been with Oswald, particularly that of Dean Andrews, to the government and to me, and of Jesse Core. Here reference to a cauliflower ear is reminiscent of Dean's description of a man who could go to "fist city". I have never asked him if the man he saw with Oswald on at least five occasions in his own office had such disfigurement. It should be done.

I think Sprague should be consulted about this, for he may recall some such scenes or have appropriate stills. The NBC footage is now in the Library of Congress. I did not see it after establishing it is there, but Sprague has seen some. This entire NBC record is about 60 hours in length. I do not have the NBC book, but I think it also should be check on the chance there is anything bearing on Mrs. Tarsikes' observation. I will communicate with Alan Dale, who is with the WOAI radio affiliate, to see if he can be of any help. If he is, I will report it separately.

Comparing the Rice and Benavides reports, it would seem that Mrs. Tarsikes could not have been shown the WDSU-Rush footage, because Rice reports

he did not send it until the evening of 11/25/63 (oddly, one film by two different airlines), whereas Benavides specifies he got the film at 10 p.m. 11/24/63. Aside from the possibility of error in reporting, there is the possibility that there were two different copies of this footage, one made by Rush, as he described to Paul Hoch, and one made by PanAmerican, as indicated in the FBI reports.

Although not consistent with the physical description given by Mrs. Tarsikes, I here note that Fred Newcomb found in the pictures from No-Name Key that I got from Larry Howard 2/68 a man who bears a remarkable resemblance to a man in the background of the Altgens picture (see first two WHITEWASH books) and a raincoat-clad man of seeming Latin derivation who resembles the man in the above pictures, taken as he approaches a police car and as he is about to enter it.

With further reference to Rush and the pictures, he told Hoch of doing the darkroom work himself, presumeably on the stills.

Were it not that Benavides goes out of his way to specify that he knws Tarsikes personally, identifying him as an expert in the field, a professional photographer (thus indicating Tarsikes, who is not interviewed or quoted, credits his wife's observations and specifies she has both the experience and the technical skills), these reports might be dismissed ad the imaginings of an overwrought woman. I am inclined to credit at least the essence of her observations and reports. These are consistent with too much reported by others, aside from the Dealey Plaza sighting, and the failings of the investigation are too consistent with other investigative failings, all of which are inconsistent with the competence of the investigators and are consistent with a covering-up.

I have spoken to Alan Dale. He taped what I said and will play it to his news editor. I am sending him copies of the reports and he will check them out as best he can. The CBS station in San Antonio is Channel 5.